Fig. I.

Fig. II.

Phytolacca decandra

PHYTOLACCA DECANDRA.

Poke.

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PLATE III.

From the testimony of different writers it appears that Phytolacca decandra is an inhabitant not only of North America, but likewise of the south of Europe from Portugal to Greece, and also of the Barbary states in Africa. Its origin is probably American, since I find that it was so considered in the time of Parkinson, who in his Theatrum Botanicum, published in 1640, denominates it "Solanum magnum Virginianum rubrum." This is one of the oldest accounts I find of it. Plukenet conjectures it may be the *Cuechilitzomatl* of Hernandez, but the description, like most others of that loose and superficial writer, is more promotive of obscurity than of knowledge, still it is not easy to draw from it any satisfactory evidence of its Mexican origin. [*Note D.*]